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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/848,932	05/19/2004	Joseph Shu Yian Liew	2065.002600	5713
23720	7590	01/24/2006	EXAMINER	
WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON			BOCHNA, DAVID	
10333 RICHMOND, SUITE 1100			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOUSTON, TX 77042			3679	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/848,932	LIEW, JOSEPH SHU YIAN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	David E. Bochna	3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,7,10-17,19-22,25,28,29,32-38,42,43 and 47-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5,6,8,9,18,23,24,26,27,30,31,39-41,44-46 and 50-52 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The phrase "The present invention relates to" should be removed from the abstract.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 7, 10-17, 19-22, 25, 28-29, 32-34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luxembourg Patent 85,702.

In regard to claims 1, 19, 32-33 and 36, '702 discloses an apparatus, comprising:

a first component 2, said first component adapted to be coupled to a second component 1;
an outer collar 4 positioned around said first component 2, said outer collar adapted to be
threadingly coupled to said second component (via threaded bolt 5), and a plurality of collet
fingers 10 positioned between said outer collar and said first component, said outer collar having
a surface that is adapted to engage said collet fingers and urge said collet fingers into

engagement with said first and second components when said outer collar is threadingly coupled to said second component 1.

In regard to claims 2 and 20, the first component 2 is comprised of at least a riser.

In regard to claims 3 and 21, the second component 1 is comprised of at least a riser.

In regard to claims 4, 22 and 34, further comprising means 12 for coupling the outer collar to the first component.

In regard to claims 7, 25 and 35, further comprising a means 5 for retaining the outer collar in a retracted position.

In regard to claim 10, the surface of the collar that engages the plurality of collet fingers comprises a substantially cylindrical surface 4.

In regard to claims 11 and 28, the collar that engages the plurality of collet fingers comprises a tapered surface 4.

In regard to claims 12 and 29, the collet fingers 10 comprise a lip and the surface of the collar that engages the plurality of collet fingers comprises a tapered surface.

In regard to claim 13, the collet fingers 10 have a first tapered surface that is adapted to engage a tapered surface 14 formed on the first component.

In regard to claim 14, the collet fingers have a second tapered surface that is adapted to engage a tapered surface formed on the second component.

In regard to claim 15, each of the collet fingers 10 comprises first and second lugs, wherein the first lug is adapted to engage the first component and the second lug is adapted to engage the second component when the collet fingers are in an installed position.

In regard to claim 16, wherein each of said collet fingers is comprised of a

first plurality of lugs and a second plurality of lugs, wherein said first plurality of lugs are adapted to engage said first component and said second plurality of lugs are adapted to engage said second component when said collet fingers are in an installed position.

In regard to claim 17, wherein said split ring has a surface that is adapted to engage a shoulder formed on said first component when said outer collar is moved to an installed position.

4. Claims 42-43, 47-48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eaton '406.

In regard to claims 42, 47 and 48, Eaton discloses a method of coupling a first component to a second component, comprising:

rotatably coupling a rotatable outer collar 14 to said first component 10, wherein a plurality of collet fingers 12 are positioned between said rotatable outer collar 14 and said first component 10; positioning said first component 10 adjacent said second component 16; and rotatably coupling said outer collar to said second component, wherein a surface 60 of said outer collar urges said collet fingers into engagement with said first and second components.

In regard to claims 43 and 49, further comprising urging a plurality of threaded devices 64 positioned in said outer collar into engagement with said collet fingers.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-6, 8-9, 18, 23-24, 26-27, 30-31, 37-38, 39-41, 44-46 and 50-52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Baugh, Williams et al., Walker and Larraide all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David E. Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679